

REMARKS

Claim 13 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 6 through 12 are withdrawn in view of Applicant's election to pursue the species illustrated in Figures 2(a) through 2(c) at this time. In the event that a bridging claim is allowed, it is Applicant's intention to reintroduce the species of Claims 6 through 12 into this application. Thus, by this Amendment, Claims 1 through 5 are currently presented for examination.

The Patent Examiner has rejected all claims directed to the elected species on the basis of a single reference, the United States patent of Knapp. Claims 1 through 4 and 13 are rejected as allegedly anticipated by Knapp while Claim 5 is rejected as obvious in view of that reference. In view of the discussion that follows, and the accompanying amendment to independent Claim 1, it shall become apparent that the teachings of the cited reference have been misconstrued with reference to the invention of the pending application.

The pending application is directed to a garment 10 (i.e. a pair of pants including pant legs 12, 14) that is arranged to replaceably receive various decorations. Pluralities of apertures 12', 14' are provided that enable the garment to

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receive the decorations. As can be seen in Figures 1, 5, 8(a) and 8(b), such apertures are arranged to position the decorations adjacent the outer peripheries of the pant legs 12, 14. ("It [the garment] differs from a conventional pair of pants, in part, by the inclusion of a series of substantially-horizontal apertures 12', 14' positioned in spaced vertical relationship adjacent the outer perimeters or seams of the pant legs 12 and 14 respectively.")

Knapp, in contrast, is directed to a pair of reversible pants having opposed fabric surfaces of differing appearances, each of which is suitable for facing outwardly. The patent teaches the use of reversible front pockets 22 and a reversible fly arrangement 20. In citing Knapp, the Examiner has primarily drawn correspondences between the structure of the reversible fly arrangement and the claimed invention. In so doing, the Examiner entirely misses the nature of the invention as now claimed.

The Examiner has analogized Knapp's "first panel 52" and "overlapping second panel 54" to the "outer perimeter" of Applicant's invention. This entirely misses the essential structure of Applicant's garment as now claimed wherein outer perimeter refers to the outer seams of the pant legs 12, 14. In contrast, the first panel 52 and second panel 54 of Knapp define

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overlapping portions of the reversible fly arrangement 20. Such first and second panels 52, 54 are located entirely remote from Knapp's side seam 38 which corresponds to Applicant's outer perimeter. The aligned buttonholes 56, 58 positioned within the panels 54 and 52 respectively, serve an entirely different purpose --securing closure of the fly arrangement 20 (when used in combination with buttons 60)-- than Applicant's apertures 12', 14' which is to provide for the selective attachment of various decorations. Such buttonholes 56, 58 are provided for engaging the double stud buttons 60 that secure the overlapping panels 54 to one another. (It is consistent with the purpose of securing Knapp's reversible fly that the buttons 60 are formed as integral devices that are easily manipulated for opening and closure whereas Applicant's rivet 16, which serves no such repeatable purpose, comprises a rivet face 18 that is threadedly joined to a back button 20).

In contrast, the apertures 12', 14', aligned adjacent the outer perimeter of Applicant's pant legs do not (and cannot) serve to secure closure of the fly of Applicant's garment (which is clearly visible in each of Figures 1, 5, 8(a) and 8(b) and clearly remote from the apertures 12', 14' of the claimed invention). Rather, Applicant's apertures 12', 14' provide locations for changeable insertions of rivets 16 and other

Thus it is seen that the garments of Knapp and the claimed invention are of entirely different natures and that the claim features identified in Knapp differ from those of the Applicant's invention in terms of positioning and function with respect to those garments.

Claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are directed to a garment and includes, among other limitations, a pair of pant legs "each of said pant legs having an inner surface and an outer surface and including an outer perimeter and an inner perimeter" (emphasis added) and "at least one of said pant legs having an elongated aperture located adjacent said outer perimeter of a pant leg" (emphasis added). Such limitations clearly define the essential structural (and result in functional) differences between the cited prior art and the claimed invention. Such differences, explained above, clearly define apparatus that is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited art or any other art known to the Applicant.

For the foregoing reasons, all presently-pending claims define patentable subject matter. Prompt allowance and issuance of such claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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